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at the Oberspreewerk

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1. Molybdenum and tungsten wires for tube construction are drawn in the workshops of the OSW. Apparently the East Zone does not have another plant capable of drawing wires of the smallest diameters. Since the Soviets dismantled all modern equipment and installations for the drawing of fine wires, makeshift production facilities have been installed at OSW with antiquated machinery and inadequate equipment. Hence, production costs are twelve times as high as they would be under normal conditions. Because of the improvised production methods many rejects are found because the wire splits while it is being drawn. Joseph Lesinsky, a chemist, is in charge of the wire production.
2. The grid winding installations (Gitterwickelmaschinen) at OSW are at present still operated manually. Only the grid for the tube 6 AC 7 is produced by a machine. Of this type of machine, only one model is available which is not reliable and frequently breaks down. Tube assembly takes place in rooms absolutely unfit for such work. As there are gas-heated pumps in these tube assembly sheds, the women working there have to suffer from an intolerable heat. During the assembly of tubes 6 SA 7, 6 V 6, 6 AG 7, AL 4 and 5 Z 4, many rejects occurred because the women had not been properly instructed in the assembly of tubes. The shop foremen, who have been selected according to their political attitude rather than for their technical ability, are not proficient at all and incapable of supervising the tube assembly. Work preparation is very inadequate. Frequently, delays occurred because the parts were not ready. These deficiencies caused a reject quota of 90 percent. After hundreds of tubes of inferior quality were produced, the deficiencies were slowly eliminated. Now, however, the checking of tubes is done by a specialist who is able to perform his tasks independently and without influence from the workshops and never passes a faulty tube.
3. Important chemical ingredients for the production of cathode paste are supplied by a firm in Fuerth (Bavaria). The shipments are not sent directly to OSW but to an intermediary firm in Berlin-Reinickendorf (French Sector). OSW produces its own cathode sleeves for all tubes. The proper production of the cathode paste poses a problem of great importance to OSW and has not been solved satisfactorily. In July 1949, OSW hired a chemist to work especially in this field. Until now, cathode production showed a high number of rejects. The copied American tubes never reach the same capacity as the original US tubes.

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